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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

July 3, 1969

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
The Attorney General

SUBJECT: NSC Executive Committee on Vietnam

The President has scheduled a meeting of an NSC Executive Committee on Vietnam composed of the addressees of this memorandum and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs on Monday, July 7. The meeting will be aboard the SEQUOIA. Those attending should board prior to 6:30 p.m.

The President wishes to have each of the individuals listed below present a brief (10 minute) introduction to a discussion of the issues listed:

(1) General Cushman - The Current Situation in Hanoi and the Enemy Strategy.

(2) General Wheeler - The Military Situation in South Vietnam.

(3) Secretary Laird - Vietnamization.

(4) Secretary Rogers - Paris Negotiations.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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HCL meeting
mined out in my Vietnam

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I suggest new military guidance for COMUSMACV to provide a different emphasis, as follows:

1. Take all measures necessary to the security of U.S. forces.

2. Assist GVN-US planning and development of modernized RVN security forces, including especially necessary police/constabulary-type forces.

3. Reduce US combat presence to the maximum extent permitted by the enemy threat and RVNAF capability.

4. Conduct US operations and activities in the following priority:

(a) Encourage, support and assist operations by the GVN in the pacification of populated areas, and increase GVN effectiveness and self-sufficiency in those areas, with particular emphasis on police function.

(b) Encourage and participate in combined operations to fragment and destroy VC/NVA military formations in proximity to populated areas.

(c) Conduct requisite reconnaissance operations, and employ US air and artillery in support of RVNAF offensive operations adjacent to borders, and in areas remote from population centers.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 24, 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Working Groups on Viet-Nam

Recommendation:

That you establish a policy-level US/Vietnamese working group to be presided over by yourself and to include Mel Laird, Henry Kissinger, General Wheeler and myself; that the first session of this group take place early next week; and that subsequent meetings be held weekly, preferably on Tuesdays.

Approve_____ Disapprove_____

Discussion:

During my conversation with you on the morning of June 24 I reported that President Thieu had proposed the establishment of US/Vietnamese working groups in both Saigon and Washington in order to assure a common strategy as we move forward. President Thieu regards such a suggestion as a logical outcome of the conversations which he had with you in Midway on this subject.

This memorandum contains my recommendations for the form in which I believe we should organize ourselves in Washington to meet this request. It does not address the matter of organization in Saigon, which I believe is best left to Thieu and Bunker to determine.

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GROUP 1
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My first recommendation would be that we form a compact group at the policy level over which you would preside and on which Mel Laird, Henry Kissinger, General Wheeler and I would sit. You might wish to expand this unit to include one or two others, such as Dick Helms.

It would be my suggestion that this group meet once a week, preferably on Tuesdays, so that it can have a timely impact on the Thursday negotiating sessions in Paris. The group would also be available to be convoked in emergency situations if circumstances warrant.

Ancillary to this group would be the ad hoc committee on Viet-Nam which Bill Sullivan currently chairs. That group has representation from the White House, State, Defense, the Joint Chiefs, and CIA. An AID representative participates when his presence is needed. They currently meet three times a week or more often if necessary.

On the Vietnamese side, Ambassador Bui Diem is the principal representative here in Washington. I have already informed him that he should meet with Sullivan as often as is necessary. Their first meeting is scheduled for June 25. He has indicated his desire to discuss President Thieu's proposed statement on a political settlement as well as tactics and timing for the Paris negotiations. I have assured him that representatives of the various US Departments and Agencies are available to him through Sullivan's committee and that I myself or other Cabinet-level officials would see him if the situation warrants it.

If these recommendations conform to the views which you expressed in our conversation, I will arrange with Henry Kissinger to have this organization activated. I would suggest that the first session of the policy group take place early next week because I feel that we are pressed for time, particularly with respect to the statement to be issued by President Thieu.

WPR

William P. Rogers